

Promotion of Business with Latin America

†*391. DR. D. MASTHAN:

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have explored the possibilities to promote business with Latin America;

(b) if so, the names of the items whose export and import is possible with Latin America; and

(c) the other areas where business can be promoted and the facilities proposed to be provided by Government to Indian businessmen for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. An activity based programme namely Focus: LAC has been launched in November, 1997 for a period of 6 years to boost trade with Latin America.

India's export to this region mainly consists of textiles and readymade garments, engineering goods such as bicycles and components thereof, diesel engines, automotive components, hand tools etc., chemical and allied items like fine chemicals, dye and dye intermediates, tyres and tubes, rubber gloves, handicrafts items, sports goods, electronic items, jute, shellac, tea and spices.

Non-ferrous metals, crude minerals, PVC, pulp and paper waste, raw wool are India's main import from LAC.

(c) The other fields where business can be promoted at present are Textiles including ready-made garments, carpets and handicrafts; Engineering products; Computer software; Chemical products including drugs and pharmaceuticals. The facilities provided by Government include support through Market Development Assistance for buyer-seller meets in both India and Latin America region, participation in foreign fairs, support for setting up warehouses in Latin America and inviting buyers from Latin America to India.

Old Age Homes Constructed in North-Eastern Region

***392. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH:** Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

[†]Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(a) the number of Old Age Homes/Multi-Service Centres for Older persons constructed in the North-Eastern Region, State-wise;

(b) the voluntary organizations which are constructing the Old Age Homes/Multi-Service Centres with financial assistance from Government in Manipur; and

(c) the amount of funds released to each State of North-Eastern Region for old age pension and national social assistance programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) The requisite information is enclosed as statement-I (See below):

(c) The requisite information is enclosed as statement-II.

Statement-I

Number of Old Age Homes constructed in the North Eastern region during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 (upto 14th August, 2000)

S.No.	Name of the State	Number of Old Age Home	
		1999-2000	2000-2001
1.	Assam	2	2
2.	Manipur*	1	-
	TOTAL	3	2

*The Grant-in-aid in Manipur has been released for construction of an Old Age Home/Multi Service Centre to Volunteers for Rural Health and Action, Wangjing, Thoubal, Manipur.

Statement-II

Grant in aid released to the North-Eastern States-including Sikkim, for National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS) and for the other two schemes under National Social Assistance Programme Namely, National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS) and National Maternity Benefit Scheme (NMBS) during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 (upto 14th August, 2000)

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No. State	NOAPS		NFBS		NMBS	
	99-2000	2000-01*	99-2000	2000-01*	99-2000	2000-01*
1. Arunachal Pradesh	7.07	7.65	1.90	2.32	1.56	0.00
2. Assam	745.87	1180.96	464.33	488.07	113.34	95.71
3. Manipur	87.71	147.46	23.40	29.21	25.52	22.02
4. Meghalaya	94.79	158.59	21.23	32.50	14.37	12.20
5. Mizoram	29.2	42.36	5.73	9.33	14.8	6.39
6. Nagaland	41.02	57.57	6.30	7.84	12.03	8.33
7. Tripura	178.18	282.73	55.84	51.35	14.57	42.21
8. Sikkim	14.9	47.30	2.86	0.00	2.99	0.00
TOTAL	1198.74	1924.62	581.59	620.62	199.18	186.86

Mining Operations by KIOCL***393. SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE:****SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN:**

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Limited (KIOCL) a consistently profit making Government enterprise, is in deep trouble because of its mining operations in the Western Ghats of the country;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) whether any issue regarding permission for mining operations is pending before NEERI of Nagpur for environmental clearance and the Karnataka Government for final approval; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to ensure that the company continues its operations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF THE STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) M/s. NEERI of Nagpur has been entrusted with the work of conducting a study on the environmental impact of mining in Kudremukh Region. M/s. NEERI has submitted a rapid report to the Govt. of Karnataka and their comprehensive report is awaited.